

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 144495

64

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INSE-00 SCA-01 L-03 SS-20 SAM-01 SP-03

PRS-01 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /068 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:CPTORREY:AC

APPROVED BY ARA:JBKUBISCH

INS:JAMES GREENE (SUBS)

SCA:FRED SMITH (DRAFT)

L/ARA:D.GANTZ (SUBS)

----- 004987

O 032328Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 144495

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: SUGGESTED REPLY TO RABASA'S  
NOTE ON BRACERO ISSUE

REF: MEXICO 5172; MEXICO 5239

1. THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THE EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPLY TO RABASA'S NOTE AND SUBSEQUENT REPORTS OF PRESS AND OTHER LOCAL REACTION TO THIS MATTER.

2. THE TEXT OF A REPLY NOTE CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 3 HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND INS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE LEVEL OF INTEREST AND SENSITIVITY IN MEXICO TO THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE AND BECAUSE OF RABASA'S UNUSUAL ACTION IN RELEASING TO THE PRESS THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS NOTE, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON THE SUGGESTED REPLY AFTER GIVING IT VERY CAREFUL REVIEW AS TO BOTH TONE AND SUBSTANCE. THE NOTE SHOULD NOT BE DELIVERED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 144495

UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN FINAL AUTHORIZATION.

3. QUOTE: I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO YOUR NOTE  
NUMBER A-246 OF JUNE 19, 1974, CONCERNING THE AGREEMENT TO  
SETTLE THE COLORADO RIVER SALINITY PROBLEM AND THE CON-  
TINUING PROBLEM OF MEXICAN WORKERS ILLEGALLY IN THE UNITED  
STATES.

AS YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT NIXON ON JUNE 24, 1974 SIGNED INTO

LAW THE LEGISLATION WHICH PERMITTED THE IMMEDIATE IMPE-  
MENTATION OF THE TERMS OF MINUTE NO. 242 OF THE INTER-  
NATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION AS THIS MINUTE  
APPLIES TO THE DELIVERY OF WATERS TO MEXICO. IT IS  
GRATIFYING THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOODWILL AND ACCOMMODATION  
EXISTING BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES RESULTED IN A NEGOTIATED  
PERMANENT AND DEFINITIVE SOLUTION TO THIS DIFFICULT  
PROBLEM.

MY GOVERNMENT IS SINCERELY AND SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH  
THE PROBLEM OF LARGE NUMBERS OF MEXICAN WORKERS IL-  
LEGALLY ENTERING THE UNITED STATES EACH YEAR IN SEARCH  
OF EMPLOYMENT. YOU WILL RECALL THAT AS A RESULT OF THE  
MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON IN JUNE 1972, EACH COUNTRY ES-  
TABLISHED A SPECIAL GROUP TO STUDY THIS PROBLEM IN DETAIL  
AND THAT LATER, ON JULY 15-18, 1973, REPRESENTATIVES OF  
THE TWO GOVERNMENTS MET IN WASHINGTON TO EXCHANGE VIEWS.  
COPIES OF THE REPORTS PREPARED BY THE UNITED STATES STUDY  
GROUP WERE GIVEN TO THE MEXICAN DELEGATION AND MADE  
PUBLIC AT THAT TIME.

FOLLOWING SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTA-  
TIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES REASSESSED THE DESIRABILITY OF REINSTITUTING A  
BRACERO-TYPE PROGRAM WHICH HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BY THE  
GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO. IN A COMMUNICATION OF JANUARY 4,  
1974 ON THIS SUBJECT, THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AMONG  
FARMWORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES WAS EXPLAINED AND IT WAS  
POINTED OUT THAT INCREASED USE OF MECHANICAL AND CHEMICAL  
TECHNOLOGY IS EXPECTED TO REDUCE FURTHER THE DEMAND FOR  
HAND LABOR IN AGRICULTURE. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT VERY  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 144495

LIMITED NUMBERS OF IMPORTED WORKERS ARE REQUIRED BY THE  
UNITED STATES TO MEET PEAK DEMANDS OF SHORT DURATION AND  
THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT CONSIDER A NEW BRACERO-  
TYPE PROGRAM A FEASIBLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. THE  
VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT  
CHANGED WITH RESPECT TO THIS MATTER.

IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT CO-

OPERATE IN FINDING WAYS TO DISCOURAGE AND CONTROL THE INFLUX OF MEXICAN WORKERS INTO THE UNITED STATES AND POINTED OUT THAT A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE NUMBERS OF ILLEGAL ALIENS IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD INCREASE THE EFFECTIVE DEMAND FOR IMPORTED LABOR AND, IN TURN, PAVE THE WAY FOR MORE EXTENSIVE APPLICATION OF LABOR CERTIFICATION AS A MEANS FOR THE LEGAL IMPORTATION OF WORKERS. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THIS PROCESS WOULD PROVIDE A PARTIAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

UNITED STATES LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN PHYSICAL FACILITIES TO GATHER, PROCESS, AND RETURN TO MEXICO THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MEXICAN NATIONALS APPREHENDED EACH YEAR FOR HAVING ENTERED THE UNITED STATES ILLEGALLY. THE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO AS TO THE APPELLATION OF THESE INSTALLATIONS HAVE BEEN NOTED, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATIONS FOR THESE FACILITIES.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS AT ALL TIMES CONCERNED WITH FAIR AND HUMANE TREATMENT OF APPREHENDED ALIENS. IT WAS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT THE UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE OFFERED TO PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE AT ITS CENTERS FOR USE BY MEXICAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS. I AM PLEASED THAT MEXICAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS ARE NOW USING THESE FACILITIES AND UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE VOICED NO COMPLAINTS WITH RESPECT TO THE FOOD, THE ACCOMMODATIONS, OR THE TREATMENT ACCORDED MEXICAN NATIONALS WHILE AT THESE PROCESSING CENTERS. IF THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS IS AWARE OF ANY CASES OF ABUSE, I WOULD WELCOME APPROPRIATE INFORMATION SO THAT MY GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE SUITABLE ACTION. END QUOTE.  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 144495

4. ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT A FIRM MEASURED REPLY TO THE NOTE IS NECESSARY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE IN OUR BEST INTERESTS TO ENTER INTO A PRESS POLEMIC ON THIS ISSUE. NONETHELESS, IN VIEW OF RABASA'S ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE PRESS, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT A LOW KEY EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOLLOWING THE DELIVERY OF THE NOTE. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON THE TEXT CONTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH:

5. QUOTE: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TODAY FORMALLY REPLIED TO THE MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY'S NOTE OF JUNE 19, 1974 CONCERNING THE TREATMENT BY UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES OF MEXICAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN THE

UNITED STATES AND THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO  
THAT A NEW BRACERO-TYPE PROGRAM BE INSTITUTED.

THE EMBASSY'S REPLY POINTED OUT THE SERIOUS CONCERN OF  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OVER THE HUGE NUMBER  
OF MEXICAN WORKERS WHO ENTER THE UNITED STATES EACH YE R  
IN SEARCH OF EMPLOYMENT. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS AD-  
VISED THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION AMONG AMERICAN  
FARMWORKERS AND THE USE OF INCREASED MECHANICAL AND  
CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY RESULT IN ONLY A VERY SMALL DEMAND  
FOR IMPORTED TEMPORARY SEASONAL WORKERS AND THAT, AS A  
CONSEQUENCE, A RENEWED BRACERO TYPE PROGRAM IS NOT A

FEASIBLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF MEXICAN WORKERS IL-  
LEGALLY IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT AS A RESULT  
OF AN OFFER MADE BY THE UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND  
NATURALIZATION SERVICE, MEXICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS FOR THE  
PAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY LOCATED AT THE  
THREE ALIEN PROCESSING CENTERS AND THAT THESE OFFICIALS  
HAVE NOT REGISTERED COMPLAINTS TO UNITED STATES AUTHORI-  
TIES REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF MEXICAN NATIONALS AT  
THESE CENTERS. END QUOTE. SISCO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MIGRATORY WORKERS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, IMMIGRANTS, SOCIAL PROBLEMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE144495  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** CPTORREY:AC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740177-0421  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740776/aaaacmvd.tel  
**Line Count:** 192  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** MEXICO 5172; MEXICO 5239  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: SUGGESTED REPLY TO RABASA'S NOTE ON BRACERO ISSUE  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PFOR, MX, US, (RABASA MISHKIN, EMILIO)  
**To:** MEXICO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005